

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 INR-07 COME-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 OPIC-03 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 H-02 SCA-01 SP-02 NSAE-00 /062 W

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P R 280640Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1244

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EINV, PK

SUBJECT: GSP ELIGIBILITY - NATIONALIZATION OF CHURCH  
PROPERTY

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 168984 (C) ISLAMABAD 1802

(B) LAHORE 866 (NOTAL)

1. ONLY NATIONALIZATION CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH DEPT AND  
EMBASSY HAVE CONSIDERED COULD AFFECT GSP ELIGIBILITY FOR PAKISTAN  
IS NATIONALIZATION OF UNITED PRESBYTERIAN MISSION CHURCH  
PROPERTY. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A EMBASSY REQUESTED CG  
LAHORE TO CONTACT UP MISSION LEADERS TO GET LATEST REPORT  
ON THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP. CONGEN'S REPORT IS  
REPEATED BELOW IN FULL.

2. "IN RESPONSE REFTEL A, WE CALLED IN TEBBE JULY 25  
(LOTZE BEING AWAY) TO DISCUSS STATUS OF UNITED PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH (UPC) NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP. TEBBE TOLD ME AND  
DPO GIBNEY THAT TALKS HE AND LOTZE HAD WITH EDUCATION  
MINISTRY SECRETARY AJMAL JUNE 6 WENT VERY WELL. AJMAL  
RECEIVED THEM COURTEOUSLY AND LISTENED TO THEIR CASE WITH  
APPARENT SYMPATHY.

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3. "IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM NATIONALI-

ZATION OF CHURCH SCHOOLS, TEBBE AND LOTZE SUGGESTED TO AJMAL THAT GOP SHOULD PERMIT DEMARCATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY IN SUCH WAY THAT ACADEMIC AREAS AND IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT PLAYGROUNDS, ETC. BE NATIONALIZED, I.E. COME UNDER GOP 'ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL,' BUT ALL OTHER OUTLYING PROPERTIES AND BUILDINGS (HOUSES, GODOWNS, HALLS) REMAIN IN CHURCH HANDS. IN CASES WHERE SCHOOLS WERE SOMETIMES USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES, SUCH AS CHURCH SERVICES, GOP WOULD HOPEFULLY PROVIDE ALTERNATE FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, CHURCHMEN SAID UP WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE SOME COMPENSATION FROM GOP IN FORM OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AND THE LIKE FOR ACQUIESCING IN GOP CONTROL OF SCHOOLS. TEBBE AND LOTZE EXPRESSED HOPE GOP WOULD ALSO BE SYMPATHETIC TO CHURCH CONCERNS REGARDING ADMISSION OF CHRISTIANS TO SCHOOLS, ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT FOR CHRISTIAN MINORITY AND NEED TO USE SCHOOLS AS TRAINING GROUND FOR FUTURE CHURCH LEADERS.

4. "AJMAL RESPONDED BY INVITING UPC TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS IN WRITING. HE PROMISED TO FORWARD THEM TO EDUCATION MINISTER PIRZADA FOR ACTION AT CENTRAL LEVEL AND ISSUANCE OF APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO GOPUNJAB. TEBBE AND LOTZE AGREED AND ARE NOW DRAFTING PROPOSALS. TEBBE STATED HE REALIZES 'BALL IS IN THEIR COURT.'

5. " IN MEANTIME, TEBBE INFORMED US THAT GOPUNJAB HEALTH SECRETARY, IN MEETING WITH HIM JULY 9, OUTLINED GOVERNMENT PLAN TO AMALGAMATE UPC-OWNED GORDON COLLEGE NEW CAMPUS WITH HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN RAWALPINDI TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE. IN EXCHANGE, GOPUNJAB PREPARED TO PROVIDE TEN LAKH RUPPE SCHOLARSHIP "ENDOWMENT FUND" FOR CHRISTIAN MINORITY AND TO RESERVE THREE SEATS FOR CHRISTIANS IN MEDICAL COLLEGE OVER AND ABOVE THOSE ALREADY RESERVED FOR MERIT LIST CANDIDATES AND MINORITY GROUPS IN GENERAL.

6. " IN SUM, TEBBE INDICATED TO US THAT UPC FELT THAT SATISFACTORY NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WERE IN PROGRESS. HE REITERATED THAT CHURCH MORE INTERESTED IN 'PROPRIETARY RIGHTS' THAN IN MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTIES (E.G. HE SAID GORDON COLLEGE NEW CAMPUS WAS WORTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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90 LAKHS RUPEES); AND STRESSED THAT UPC ANXIOUS TO KEEP DISPUTE OUT OF 'INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.' TEBBE DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 502(B) 4 OF 1974 TRADE ACT.

7. "TEBBE EMPHASIZED THAT HE AND LOTZE REPORT THOROUGHLY TO THEIR PRINCIPALS IN UPC IN NEW YORK AND THAT LATTER WOULD BE IN POSITION TO RESPOND DIRECTLY TO FUTURE DEPARTMENT

INQUIRIES."

8. EMBASSY COMMENT. WE CONSIDER INITIATIVE TAKEN BY UP  
MISSION TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT OF NATIONALIZATION OF CHURCH  
SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES POSITIVE STEP FORWARD. SINCE THE  
PROPERTY CLAIMS AT ISSUE ARE COMPLEX AND INVOLVE POLITICALLY  
SENSITIVE ISSUES, WE BELIEVE OVERALL SETTLEMENT WILL TAKE  
MANY MONTHS IF NOT SOME YEARS TO ACHIEVE.  
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